

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
Contact: Debbie Herbert at
334/242-8609

For Additional Information, contact Debbie Herbert (334) 242-8609

Industrial Relations Provides New Economic Planning Tools

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, February 10, 2006.....With historic low unemployment rates, tapping skilled labor pools becomes increasingly important in economic development and recruitment. The Labor Market Information Division of the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) has produced two new tools which can assist policy-making and research communities about the dynamics of local economic activity.

“Both products underscore our commitment to assisting in workforce development for the State of Alabama,” says Phyllis Kennedy, DIR director.

The first product is a publication on underemployment in Alabama. DIR commissioned the University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research for the study and it's posted on the DIR Web site at: <http://www.dir.alabama.gov/lmi>. It identifies underemployed labor pools that can be tapped for new or expanding businesses.

Another tool now available provides mapping capabilities developed by the U.S. Census Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program. The program allows individuals to identify workers by age group, earnings, or major industry in any geographic configuration in Alabama. Different geographic areas can also be compared using this data. To access the LED mapping feature go to:

<http://lehdmapp.dsd.census.gov/>. Alabama is one of 14 pilot states to use the mapping application.

Training in how to use the mapping tool and access LED data will be provided at Auburn University at Montgomery in the Spring. Interested parties wanting more information on the workshops may contact Greta Williams at 334/242-8860, or register at: <http://www.dir.alabama.gov/lmi>.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.